

The Nall Call

Monthly Newsletter of Nall Avenue

November 2021, Volume 35, Issue 11



TRANSFORMING
LIVES



BUILDING
RELATIONSHIPS



IMPACTING
COMMUNITIES



Pancake Breakfast

Join us on November 25th (Thanksgiving Morning) for our annual pancake breakfast! Please feel free to bring friends, family and neighbors to this event, we look forward to being together in faith and gratitude to our Lord! Please RSVP using Eventbrite or by calling Bri in the office.

Santa Fe Trail Ministry Update by Gerrie Orr

We are heading toward the holiday season and we are already preparing with our community partners to assist families at Santa Fe Trail Elementary. The student council has already held a giving drive and received many donations like toiletries, toilet paper, and laundry detergent. The City of Mission will deliver Thanksgiving food baskets on November 22nd for families to pick up. We are in the process of gathering "wish lists". We will again have some wish list items on tags on the tree and others on Sign-Up Genius. Tags will not be on both the tree and Sign-Up Genius. More information about the Christmas Wish Lists and the Holiday Shop will be provided in the News at Nall newsletter in the next few weeks. Watch for the drop off dates and volunteer opportunities.

If you are interested in helping with the planning for Holiday Assistance, please contact Gerrie Orr at 314-971-1216 or gerrieo5135@gmail.com.



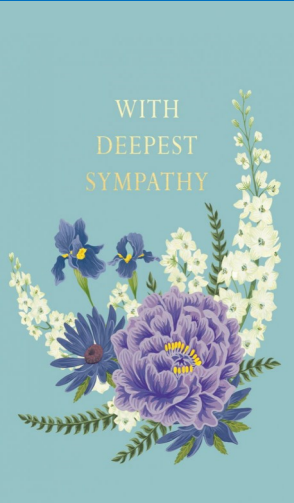
1st Monday of every Month
 Santa Fe Café
 No RSVP Needed
 7:30 AM

Deepest Sympathies

We extend our deepest sympathy to the families and friends:

Mel Cansler—October 14th

Carol Crawford—October 25th



As we continue to hear more about the Delta variant of COVID-19, please be in prayer for our medical professionals, and for all those suffering from the illness. Stay safe and healthy!



Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child is a great way to spread the good news of the Gospel to children in need all over the world! You can participate by packing a shoebox filled with goodies for these children and making sure they are dropped off at a local drop off site during National Collection Week, November 15-22nd.

There is a table in the foyer with more information, or feel free to call the office with any questions! Let's bless others this Christmas season!

Fall Fest by Bri Nicoletti



What a wonderful time we had together at Fall Fest! We were blessed with an absolutely beautiful fall day, a great turn out, some delicious chili and snacks, and some very creative costumes! Congratulations to our top three chili winners: First Place: Jonathan Crank, Second Place: Neal Williams, and Third Place: The Haas Family. A huge thank you to all of our volunteers, including those who helped set up and tear down, our inflatables supervisors, our Trunk or Treat vehicles, and all who donated candy! We could not have done this without you and we are so grateful!



Assumption of 3 Church Generations by Joe Funderburk



Will Mancini is a well-known author and has been an effective church consultant for over twenty years. In his new book, *Future Church*, he charts three generations of church life and highlights assumptions that have been established about church growth. I want to list a few of them for you:

- Church growth is secured by individual commitments made in a decision at a public event.
- Church growth results in the church being a visible and prominent community institution.
- Church growth comes from providing programs that young families want to access.
- Church growth requires a culturally relevant and inspiring public experience with outstanding customer service and hospitality for the audience.
- Church growth is measured by the numbers of people attending and serving in worship services and other programs arranged as steps in a linear process.
- Above all, church growth has to do with what organizations do, not what individuals do, except insofar as individuals support the work of the organization.

Most believers in churches today read those bullet points and believe, to one extent or another, that they are mostly accurate. The problem, according to experts like Mancini, is that they are relics and assumptions of a by-gone era which have little to do with the hard reality today of reaching people for Christ. These assumptions continue to drive leadership in churches to pursue metrics that don't measure authentic disciple-making. Attendance at events and services, annual giving, number of programs and if those programs are relevant to family engagement. The confusion is not in keeping track of some of these concrete data points, but rather that they obscure the issue of assimilation with biblical disciple-making.

Mancini's last point is especially prescient in every setting. Regardless of the size of church, what type of worship they offer, or what programs they have or don't have, this last assumption trumps all others. The idea that organizations win people to Christ and disciple them intentionally is delusional, yet commonly held. Even Billy Graham was convinced early on in his ministry (in a program driven era) that even though his crusades might win a convert, it would be individuals in the local church that would make a disciple. Of all the hurdles that exist today for the church to fulfill its mission, helping our people understand the individual call and role in intentional disciple-making is daunting because it is often not articulated, modeled, and encouraged. Only when we begin to do that will the church today begin to find its footing in the evangelical mandate we have been given by Christ.